

thoroughly the terrorist threats that could in fact jeopardize the lives of ordinary Americans.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. J. Res. 78, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 78) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 78 is as follows:

#### H. J. RES. 78

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 107-44 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 107(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "December 21, 2001".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, December 12, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before the House, House Joint Resolution 78, will extend the current continuing resolution until December 21, at which time we hope to have all of the appropriations bills completed and on the President's desk.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial CR. The terms and conditions of the previous continuing resolution will remain in effect. All ongoing activities will be continued at current rates, under the same terms and conditions as fiscal year 2001, with the exception of the agencies covered by the fiscal year 2002 appropriations bills that have already been enacted into law.

Nine of the fiscal year 2002 13 appropriations bills have already been signed, plus two supplemental appropriations bills. One more 2002 bill is awaiting the President's signature. That is the District of Columbia appropriations bill.

Most of the government agencies are already operating at fiscal year 2002

levels. We are prepared to present the three remaining bills, the Foreign Operations bill, the Labor-HHS bill and the Defense bill when the House reconvenes next week, and we expect those bills to be completed and ready to go through the process.

I urge the House to move the CR to the Senate and so we can get on with the rest of the business of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 12 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to rise in support of this continuing resolution. I think the gentleman is correct. We are hoping that by a week from this coming Friday or Saturday someone will have found the off button for this Congress and will be able to actually press it and shut it down for the Christmas season. Things can always get in the way, but I hope that they do not.

As the gentleman has indicated, there are about three major impediments to our adjourning remaining. One is the Labor, Health, Education appropriation bill. We are very close to agreement on that. The second is the Defense appropriations bill, to which has been added the post-September 11 anti-terrorism supplemental. And then we have the potential for a stimulus package which could either wind up being a true stimulus to the economy or just another tax boondoggle. This committee has no control over what is produced on that score.

Let me simply say, I want to take a couple of minutes because of remarks made by previous speaker about what we face next year. I think it is useful to note that while this House has had many a fight this year, that all but one of the appropriation bills, that this House passed, passed with broad bipartisan support, and the Chairman of the committee and I, I think, have developed a very good working relationship on those bills.

I have noted with considerable frustration the fact that some people in this institution manage with spectacular frequency to aim at the wrong targets in blaming, or in trying to assess blame for the loss of the surplus or for the fact that the House has not been able to shut down.

Willie Sutton, the famous bank robber, used to say that the reason he robbed banks was that that is where the money was. The problem is that we have too many people in this institution and elsewhere, including some who make their business with a pen or a computer, there are too many people who blame the appropriations process, when, in fact, in terms of budget problems, that is where the gnats are. And as a result, we keep making the same mistakes and recreating deficits all over again.

Someone said once, I do not remember if it is my favorite philosophy, Archie the cockroach, or if it was Will Rogers, one of the two, who said that experience is that quality that enables

you to recognize a mistake when you make it again, and that is what I think this Congress will go down in history as being noted for.

In 1981, this Congress passed President Reagan's budgets, and those budgets essentially quadrupled our deficits over the next few years because they separated consideration of tax matters from budget matters, and they wound up blowing a huge hole in the side of the deficit by promising very large tax cuts, which had to be paid for by borrowing a huge amount of money at the same time the defense budget was being doubled.

It took us 20 years to dig out from those deficits. We finally reached the point just 3 years ago where, I think, every American and certainly most people in this institution, if not all, took great pride in the fact that we had actually turned the corner and appeared as though we would be facing a string of surpluses. Some of us thought the size of those surpluses would be more modest than others, but nonetheless, we faced a string of surpluses, and now, this Congress, in one short year, has blown them all.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting in the RECORD at this point an analysis prepared by the House Committee on the Budget minority staff which is entitled "What Happened to the Surpluses," and if you look at that, you will see that we started this year with huge expectations, huge surpluses for as far as the eye could see, but by the end of the year, they are gone for three reasons essentially.

#### THE DISSIPATION OF THE BUDGET SURPLUS, 2001

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On November 28, 2001, President Bush claimed that his Administration "brought sorely needed fiscal discipline to Washington." On the same day, OMB Director Mitchell Daniels warned the country not to expect another budget surplus until 2005—after President Bush's term of office is up. The unified budget surplus of \$304 billion projected for FY 2002, and the cumulative surplus of \$5.629 trillion projected over ten years, which this Administration inherited, are gone. Director Daniels blamed the economy and the fight against terrorism, and absolved the President's tax cuts. In fact, last June's tax cut is most responsible for wiping out the surplus, and the Republican stimulus plan, with further permanent tax cuts, would only dig the hole deeper.

2. The Republican tax cut contributed more than half—54.7 percent—of this worsening of the surplus, based on the bipartisan, bicameral estimates of the Budget Committee staffs.

3. The worsening of the economy, which began well before September 11, has had a significant impact in the near term (2001 to 2003). But, beyond those next few years, the effect of the economy fades as recovery takes hold. The role of increased spending—to counter terrorism and to address other priorities—is not significant.

4. On net, virtually all of today's estimated cumulative ten-year surplus of \$2.604 trillion comes from the Social Security Trust Fund surplus, and is concentrated in the future years, where the outlook is most uncertain.

5. These events and estimates prove even more that the tax cut was irresponsible. It